

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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IO - MR. TREVITHICK
ACDA - MR. VAN DORFN
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S/S- MR. KAHAN
S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH

SUBJECT: IAEA RFCC STUDY

1. DEPARTMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THOSE PORTIONS
OF DRAFT IAEA REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER (RFCC)
STUDY DEALING WITH COMPARISON BETWEEN PLUTONIUM
RECYCLE AND PERMANENT STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL, NOTABLY LATTER
PORTIONS OF SECTION 6, THE SECTION "RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS"
AND SUMMARY COMMENTS ELSEWHERE IN DRAFT. IN OUR VIEW
STUDY'S TREATMENT OF THIS QUESTION IS SERIOUSLY DEFICIENT;
SOME OF MOST SENSITIVE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS ARE HIGHLY
SPECULATIVE AND/OR UNREALISTIC, AND CONCLUSIONS EXPRESSED
OR IMPLIED ARE AT BEST MISLEADING. AS AGENCY IS AWARE,
US HAS TAKEN POSITION IN OCTOBER 28 PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT
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THAT ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RECYCLE REMAIN UNCERTAIN; WE
BELIEVE THAT PUBLICATION OF THESE PORTIONS OF DRAFT REPORT
WOULD PUT AGENCY IN POSITION OF PRE-JUDGING AN ISSUE WE
REGARD AS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO OUR NON-PROLIFERATION
POLICY. MORE FUNDAMENTALLY, WE BELIEVE THESE PORTIONS OF
DRAFT GO BEYOND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF STUDY AS WE HAVE
ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THEM.

2. MISSION IS AWARE OF SEVERING DISCUSSIONS WITH MECKONI SUGGESTING DELETION FROM THE REPORT OF LATTER PORTIONS OF

SECTION 6, AND OF EXTENSIVE CHANGES AND COMMENTS WHICH US HAS SUBMITTED TO SECRETARIAT IN EVENT FULL TEXT OF SECTION 6 REMAINS IN THE REPORT. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS RISK THAT US WILL NOT HAVE FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON FINAL DRAFT IN TIME TO RESOLVE OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BEFORE PUBLICATION.

3. MISSION IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO MEET WITH MECKONI ON URGENT BASIS, AND STATE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS THAT WHILE US FINDS DRAFT REPORT GENERALLY IMPRESSIVE AND HELPFUL, WE HAVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AS OUTLINED ABOVE. IN OUR VIEW, TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ECONOMIC PORTION OF STUDY AS UNDERSTOOD FROM OUTSET WERE LIMITED TO COMPARISON OF SMALL SCALE (AND, THUS, NATIONAL) VS. LARGE SCALE (AND, THUS, REGIONAL) FACILITIES, AND PURPOSE WAS NOT TO DRAW COMPARISONS BETWEEN RELATIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF RECYCLE AND PERMANENT STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL. LATTER IS OF COURSE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT QUESTION BUT NEED NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE PREJUDGED HERE. US MAY THEREFORE REQUEST DELETION OF MOST TROUBLESOME PORTIONS OF STUDY. AT MINIMUM WE WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON FINAL DRAFT (PORTIONS OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY REVISED) BEFORE IT IS PUBLISHED.

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4. WITH RESPECT TO PARA. 3 ABOVE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE OF SUBMITTING FINAL VERSION OF REPORT TO PRINTER COULD BE SLIPPED BY A FEW DAYS FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL OF THE MORE TROUBLESOME SECTIONS WITHOUT UNDUE PROBLEMS -- PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE VOLUMINOUS CHARACTER OF THE OVERALL REPORT. THIS SLIPPAGE COULD ALLOW ESSENTIAL TIME FOR CONCERNED PARTIES (DEPARTMENT) TO REVIEW MOST EXTENSIVELY REDRAFTED SECTIONS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION, WITH VIEW TO MAXIMIZING OVERALL CREDIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOR THIS POTENTIALLY HELPFUL AGENCY STUDY. SPECIFICALLY, THE MOST TROUBLESOME SECTIONS DESIRED FOR REVIEW ARE (1) "RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS" AND SECTION 6 OF VOLUME I, AND (2) SECTION 18 OF VOLUME II.

5. IN MEANTIME, AGENCY SHOULD BE AWARE OF OUR CONCERN THAT WE WILL BE COMPELLED TO DISAGREE PUBLICLY WITH PORTIONS OF REPORT IF THESE QUESTIONS ARE NOT SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED BEFORE PUBLICATION.

6. IF MECKONI NOT FORTHCOMING, AMBASSADOR REQUESTED TO
DISCUSS US REQUESTS WITH HALL AND REPORT BACK.

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Message Attributes

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